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# ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

HUNTINGDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL,

FOR

**1920.**

BY

LANCELOT NEWTON,

M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Huntingdon Rural  
District Council.



HUNTINGDON :

Cooper & Co., Printers, High Street

1921.

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*Alconbury Hill,*

*Gentlemen,*

*I beg to submit my Annual Report for the  
Huntingdon Rural District for the year 1920.*

*I remain,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

*LANCELOT NEWTON,*

*M.O.H. Huntingdon,*

*Rural District.*

*April 14th, 1921.*



# REPORT

ON THE

## Huntingdon Rural District for 1920.

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The figures, on which the calculation of the statistics in this report are made, are supplied from the General Register Office, Somerset House.

### Population.

The population for 1911 is 6938, and estimated for 1920, 6448.

The District comprises 26 parishes, situated on a clay subsoil, except where the gravel accompanies the streams, is undulating in character and is purely agricultural. The proportion of grass to arable is one to two.

### Vital Statistics.

#### Birth Rate.

The total number of births is 174—88 males and 86 females—of which 14 were illegitimate, making a birth-rate of 26·9 per 1000 of population.

#### Death Rate.

There were 71 deaths registered in the district, adding 18—the number of persons belonging to the district but dying elsewhere, and subtracting 4 the number of persons dying in the district but belonging elsewhere—gives a total of 85, making a death rate of 13·18 per 1000 of population. There were only two deaths not certified.

#### Infant Mortality.

Thirteen deaths of children under one year of age make a rate of infant mortality of 74·7 per 1000 births or 15·2 per cent. of the total number of deaths. There were no deaths of illegitimate children.

#### Zymotic Death Rate.

Two deaths from diphtheria make a Zymotic death rate of ·31 per 1000 of population.

The following table shows the birth rate, death rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1920 for England and Wales compared with the Huntingdon Rural District.

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.									RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.				PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping- cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Certified Causes of Death.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales	25·4	12·4	0·01	0·00	0·19	0·04	0·11	0·15	0·28	0·48	8·3	80	24·3	92·2	6·6	1·2		
Huntingdon Rural District	26·9	13·18	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	0·31	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	13	No Public Institution.	1·18	3·52	2·35		



I have no information as to the amount of Poor Law relief.

### **Hospitals.**

The Huntingdon County Hospital.

The Workhouse,

The Three Counties Asylum,

The Peterborough Infirmary,

The Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge,

The Papworth Tuberculosis Colony,

The Wyton Hostel,

are the Institutions, all out of the district, which afford accommodation in suitable cases.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

#### **Water Supply.**

A table on page 11, prepared by the Inspector of Nuisances shows the water supply of each village. Little Raveley has gone to considerable expense to remove the defects in the water supply in that village and with a successful result. In the village of Wennington steps are still in abeyance to remedy the unsatisfactory state of its supply.

#### **Rivers and Streams.**

With the exception of Hartford, by which about a mile of the river Ouse runs, there is no stream worthy of note. The brooks which run into it in the Southern part of the district were cleaned out by German prisoners and are much improved. Although the drainage eventually discharges into these brooks it seldom reaches them **except** in times of flood and then so dilute as to be practically innocuous.

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Brampton and Hartford and parts of Sawtry are the only villages with any real attempt to a proper system of drainage. In each case the sewage is collected into settling tanks before discharging into the brooks and are periodically emptied. The drains are regularly flushed, and I have always found them in good working order.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

A modified dry system is almost universal throughout the district. The few water closets that exist are chiefly in the larger type of houses, and care is taken that they do not discharge direct into any stream or watercourse.

### **Scavenging.**

Brampton is the only village that has a public scavenger. Owing to pressure from the Ministry of Health, concerning the type of new houses now being erected, the villages will be compelled to adopt newer and more expensive schemes for the emptying of cesspools. Sawtry has special Bye-laws to insure a more prompt removal of house refuse, but there has been no occasion to take action.

### **Sanitary Inspection of District.**

I have made, with the Inspector of Nuisances, a house to house inspection of the district. A table on page 12 gives a summary of the work that has been done.

### **Schools.**

The water supply of some of the schools is not satisfactory. I would express the advisability of everything connected with the schools being under one authority. As it is, the Education Authority is apt to consider the matter from an educational point of view, and is tempted to delay the closure of schools, whereas the Sanitary Authority think more of the dissemination of disease than the hindrance to education caused thereby.

### **Food.**

#### **Milk Supply.**

With some few exceptions milk is readily obtainable. There are 40 registered milk-sellers, of which only five send their milk out of the district.

Milk (Mothers' and Children) Order, 1919. No action has been taken.



The number of slaughter houses is nine, and are all private, and were found on inspection to be in a satisfactory condition.

The number of bakehouses is 13, and on inspection were all found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### **Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were the two chief causes of infectious disease, and were distributed as follows :—

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 29 cases notified and occurred as follows :—

Woodwalton	...	4 cases in 3 houses.
Alconbury Weston	...	2 „ 1 house.
Alconbury	...	3 „ 3 houses.
Brampton	...	4 „ 4 houses.
Wennington	...	6 „ 2 houses.
Great Stukeley	...	2 „ 2 houses.
Sawtry	..	1 „ 1 house.
Conington	... ..	7 „ 5 houses.

Eight cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. There was strong evidence that scarlet fever and diphtheria ran concurrently in the same individual.

The Woodwalton cases were started from an unrecognised case.

The cases in Great Stukeley and Sawtry and Conington were undoubtedly of school origin.

DIPHTHERIA was very general, 31 cases were notified of which two were fatal. The distribution of the cases was as follows :—

Leighton	...	1 case in 1 house.
Easton	... ..	2 „ 1 house.
Barham	... ..	1 „ 1 house.
Brampton	...	9 „ 7 houses.
Hartford	... ..	7 „ 6 houses.
Sawtry	... ..	2 „ 1 house.
Wennington	...	9 „ 2 houses.

Twenty-one cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Antitoxin was used in all cases and was easily and promptly obtained from the County Council Offices.

PNEUMONIA.—Four cases were notified, of which three were fatal.

MALARIA.—One case notified in a discharged soldier.

No cases of dysentery or Trench Fever were reported.

### **Cancer.**

There were nine deaths from this disease and were distributed as follows:—

Parish.	Sex.	Age.
Abbots Ripton ...	M.	41
Brampton ...	2 M.	64, 65
Conington ...	F.	47
Great Stukeley ...	F.	81
Ellington ...	M.	56
Leighton ...	F.	24
Little Stukeley ...	F.	68
Spaldwick ...	M.	87

### **Isolation Hospital.**

The Isolation Hospital of the Borough of Huntingdon is now available for all cases on an agreed payment.

Disinfection was carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances 25 times after diphtheria and 10 times after scarlet fever.

No cases of vaccination or re-vaccination were performed by me under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations of 1917. I have no information as to the primary vaccination of children but it is my opinion that the District is not so effectually vaccinated as it should be. At present there is no Hospital or provision for small pox cases.

### **Pulmonary Tuberculosis.**

The treatment of all forms of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council, the County Medical Officer being appointed Tuberculosis Officer. There were 8 deaths due to this disease. As only four cases were notified—two of which proved fatal—the remaining four cases were reported in the previous year.

### **Venereal Disease.**

This is under the management of the County Council. Beds for cases requiring them, are reserved at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity and Child Welfare is also undertaken by the County Council.

### **Sanitary Administration.**

The staff for sanitary work consists of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances.

Hospital accommodation is given on page 5.

Bacterial examination is performed by the County Medical Officer.

### **Housing.**

The following table shows the number of houses erected or being erected in each Parish. It was proposed to erect 86 houses, but owing to unavoidable delay only 70 have been undertaken.

Parishes.	No. Intended.	Started.	Completed.	Occupied or Let.
Great Raveley ...	6	6	6	6
Little Raveley ...	4	4	4	1
Great Stukeley ...	4	4	—	—
Little Stukeley ...	4	4	—	—
Alconbury Weston...	4	4	—	—
Alconbury ...	8	8	—	—
Upwood ...	6	4	—	—
Sawtry St. Judith ...	8	8	—	—
Sawtry All Saints and St. Andrews	10	10	—	—
Brampton ...	6	6	2	2
Spaldwick ...	6	6	—	—
Hartford ...	6	6	—	—
Upton ...	4	4	—	—
	76	74	12	9

ALCONBURY HILL,  
*April 14th, 1921.*

LANCELOT NEWTON,  
M.R.C.S., L.S.A.  
M.O.H. for Huntingdon Rural District.

ALCONBURY WESTON,  
1921.

**Water Supply, 1920.**

Parish.	Quantity.		Quality.
Abbots Ripton ...	One pond.	Sufficient	Improved
Alconbury ...	Two pumps	"	Fair
Alconbury Weston ...	Two pumps	"	Poor
Brampton ...	Private wells	"	Fair
Buckworth ...	Three wells	"	Good
Barham ...	One pond	"	Poor
Easton ...	One pump	"	Good
Ellington ...	Three pumps	"	Good
Leighton ...	Three pumps	"	Fair
Spaldwick ...	Two pumps	"	Good
Woolley ...	One pump	"	Poor
Hamerton ...	One pump, one pond	"	Fair
Steeple Gidding ...	One pond	"	Indifferent
Sawtry ...	One reservoir	"	Fair
Woodwalton ...	Two pumps	"	Fair
Conington ...	One pond	"	Fair
Upwood ...	Two pumps	Shortage	Fair
Great Raveley ...	One pump	Sufficient	Good
Coppingford ...	One pump	"	Fair
Little Raveley ...	One pump	"	Much Improved
Upton ...	One pond	Shortage	Poor
King's Ripton ...	Two ponds	Sufficient	Very Indifferent
Little Stukeley ...	Three pumps	"	Fair
Great Stukeley ...	Private supplies	"	Fair
Hartford ...	Private supplies	"	Fair
Wennington ...	One pond	Shortage	Bad

F. FORTESCUE,  
*Inspector of Nuisances.*



ALCONBURY WESTON,  
1921.

To L. Newton, Esq., M.O.H.

DEAR SIR,

I append Summary of work done or caused to be done during the year 1920.

1.	Parishes inspected	...	...	...	...	26
2.	Houses, premises, &c. inspected	...	...	...	...	947
3.	„ „ re-inspected	...	...	...	...	148
4.	Earth Closets caused to be repaired	...	...	...	...	11
5.	Public Drains, cleansed, flushed or repaired	...	...	...	...	25
6.	Private Drains repaired after notice	...	...	...	...	3
7.	„ „ without notice	...	...	...	...	9
8.	Public Pumps, Wells, &c. repaired	...	...	...	...	7
9.	Private Pumps after notice	...	...	...	...	3
10.	Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	...	...	35
11.	Houses repaired under Sec. 15, Town Planning Act	...	...	...	...	23
12.	Ashbins repaired after notice	...	...	...	...	9
13.	Milksellers registered	...	...	...	...	40

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

F. FORTESCUE.

## APPENDICES.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

## STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1920.

**1.—GENERAL.**

(1)	Estimated population	...	...	...	...	6448
(2)	General death-rate	...	...	...	...	13·18
(3)	Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1·39
(4)	Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	74·7
(5)	Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	1791
(6)	Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	1537
(7)	Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	...	13

**2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.****I.—Inspection.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	23
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	...	...	...	...	25
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	2
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	27

**II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	6
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### III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

#### A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	}	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—		
(a) by owners ... ..		
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..		
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..		

#### B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	}	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by owners ... ..		
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..		

#### C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil.
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil.

**3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.**

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890 :—

(1)	Name of area	...	...	...	...	} Nil.
(2)	Acreage	...	...	...	...	
(3)	Number of working-class houses in area	...	...	...	...	
(4)	Number of working-class persons to be displaced	...	...	...	...	

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly the duties of each officer.

Mr. Leete, Architect, County Surveyor.

Mr. W. A. Lea, Architect, Clerk of the Works.

# Causes of Death in Huntingdon Rural District, 1920.

					Males.	Females.
All Causes (Civilians only)...	...	...	...	...	40	45
1. Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Measles ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6. Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	2	—
7. Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
8. Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	3	5
10. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases...	...	...	...	...	—	1
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	...	...	...	...	5	4
13. Rheumatic Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14. Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
15. Organic Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	7	9
16. Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	4	2
17. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	...	...	2	1
18. Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
19. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
21a. Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
23. Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25. Congenital Debility, &c. ...	...	...	...	...	4	4
26. Violence, apart from Suicide...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27. Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	1	—
28. Other Defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	11	18
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Special Causes (included above)						
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...	...	...	...	...	8	5
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Total Births ...	...	...	...	...	88	86
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	...	82	78
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	...	6	8
Population (for Births and Deaths)						6448







